

1                    **WE CLAIM:**

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3                    1. An organic light emitting device comprising:

4                    a first electrode;

5                    a second electrode; and

6                    a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material between

7                    the first electrode and the second electrode, wherein one of the first electrode and the

8                    second electrode includes both a substantially transparent charge injecting layer

9                    adjacent to the luminescent region and an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.

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11                    2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a substrate, wherein one of the

12                    first electrode and the second electrode is between the substrate and the luminescent

13                    region.

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15                    3. The device of claim 1, wherein the charge injecting layer has a thickness

16                    ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.

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18                    4. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by

19                    thermal evaporation in vacuum.

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21                    5. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least

22                    about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

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24                    6. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least

25                    about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

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27                    7. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:

28                    (a) a cathode including:

29                    (i) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer, and

30                    (ii) a substantially transparent electron injecting layer;

31                    (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and

32                    (c) an anode that is substantially transparent to light.

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34                    8. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substantially transparent

35                    substrate, wherein the anode is between the luminescent region and the substrate.

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2 9. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substrate, wherein the cathode is  
3 between the luminescent region and the substrate.  
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5 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a metallic  
6 layer, wherein the light absorbing layer is between the metallic layer and the electron  
7 injecting layer.  
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9 11. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a buffer layer  
10 between the light absorbing layer and the electron injecting layer.  
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12 12. The device of claim 7, wherein the electron injecting layer has a thickness  
13 ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.  
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15 13. The device of claim 7 wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by  
16 thermal evaporation in vacuum.  
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18 14. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
19 about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.  
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21 15. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
22 about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.  
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24 16. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:  
25 (a) a cathode that is substantially transparent to light;  
26 (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and  
27 (c) an anode including:  
28 (i) a substantially transparent hole injecting layer, and  
29 (ii) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.